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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, CHAU T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/902,261	OGISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chau Nguyen	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 June 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-17* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/28/2005 has been entered. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al. (Alam), US Patent No. 6,336,124, and further in view of Makipaa et al. (Makipaa), US Patent No. 6,556,217 and Kanevsky, US Patent No. 6,300,947.

4. As to claim 1, Alam discloses a display device for displaying, on a display screen, information specified in a document description language for a structured document, the information being displayed in a mode prescribed for the document description language, and performing a screen switching in response to a user input, said device comprising:

an analyzer for operable to analyze the information, and operable to divide said information into a plurality of component elements (Abstract: locating data in an input document, grouping data into one or more blocks (component elements));

a rule change instruction part operable to make an instruction for a change of layout rules to be applied to said information (col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document);

a layout rule change part containing a plurality of predetermined layout rules, (col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: Figure 19 shows determining steps of how component elements are displayed within the displayed configuration, thus there must exist predetermined layout rules in order to determinate how to display the component elements)

user input part operable to receive the user input (col. 5, lines 35-45: user specifies one or more output formats);

a display range determination part operable to determine a display range of the information based on the user input (col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and

determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted);

However, Alam does not explicitly disclose the layout rule change part operable to select one of the layout rules responding to the instruction from said rule change instruction part; a layout part operable to lay out each of the component elements derived by the analyzer according to the layout rule selected by said layout rule change part; and a display part operable to generate screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination part based on the component elements derived by said analyzer and a layout result of each of the component elements, and operable to display the screen data on the display screen.

Makipaa discloses displaying information on a user terminal screen by identifying user terminal type and screen size then extracting layout rules and typographical settings from a database based on the user terminal type, calculating the space required to display the information on the user terminal screen, and the information is then displayed according to the layout rules and typographical settings, on the user terminal screen (col. 3, lines 14-28). Makipaa also discloses the layout rules for terminal type and user profile are retrieved from the user and terminal profile (col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36). Since Makipaa discloses displaying information on any type of user terminal having any size screen and having different types of mechanisms for input of information, which is similar to converting digital data representing an image of a

document image stored in one format to other formats for manipulation and display of Alam, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Makipaa and Alam to include layout rule change means for selecting one of said layout rules responding to the instruction from said rule change instruction means; layout means for laying out each of said component elements derived by said analysis means according to the layout rule selected by said layout rule change means; and display means for generating screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination means based on said component elements derived by said analysis means and a layout result of each of said component elements, and displaying the screen data on the display screen. Makipaa's system can be able to operate and adapt to the differing input devices to allow for maximum utilization of the terminal the user has.

Alam and Makipaa, however, do not explicitly disclose each of layout rules defines a layout method for each type of the component elements of the information, and which are applicable to the component elements. Kanevsky discloses defining display parameters such as tables (component elements) may be created which contain display characteristics or parameters associated with a given display terminal and each table can be identified by a unique mode number (Abstract and col. 6, line 53 – col. 7, line 9). Since Kanevsky discloses a system for organizing viewing materials associated with web sites on different visual display screens and windows, which is similar to displaying information on any type of user terminal having any size screen and having different types of mechanisms for input of information, thus it would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Kanevsky and Alam-Makipaa to include each of layout rules defines a layout method for each type of the component elements of the information, and which are applicable to the component elements in order to be able to display component elements on different display devices.

5. As to claim 2, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein the information includes at least one or more of a text element, a table element, and an image element (Alam, col. 2, lines 12-27).

6. As to claim 3, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein the document description language is a markup language or a hypertext description language (Alam, col. 2, lines 28-36).

7. As to claim 4, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein said rule change instruction part receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules (Makipaa, col. 3, lines 14-28 and col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36: Makipaa discloses displaying information on any type of user terminal having any size screen and having different types of mechanisms for input of information, which is similar to converting digital data representing an image of a document image stored in one format to other formats for manipulation and display of Alam, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the

teachings of Makipaa and Alam to include rule change instruction part receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules. The motivation to combine Makipaa's system into Alam's is that Makipaa's system can be able to operate and adapt to the differing input devices to allow for maximum utilization of the terminal the user has).

8. As to claim 5, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein said rule change instruction part refers to the display range determined by said to the display range display range determination part, and makes the change of the layout rules based on an attribute of each of the component elements included in the display range (Alam, col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted).

9. As to claim 6, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein said rule change instruction the refers to the display range determined by said display range determination the, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules based on the layout result of each of the component elements included in the display range (Alam, col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and

determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted).

10. As to claim 7, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein each of the layout rules included in said layout rule change part defines a layout method for each type of the component elements of said information (Alam, col. 7, line 5 – col. 18, line 36).

11. As to claim 8, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose wherein the layout rules to be selected by said layout rule change part include one type of layout rule for laying out a table element included in the information in a table structure (Alam, col. 7, line 5 – col. 18, line 36).

12. Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al. (Alam), Makipaa et al. (Makipaa), and Kanevsky as discussed in claims 1-8 above, and further in view of Thurlow et al. (Thurlow), US Patent No. 6,057,841.

13. As to claim 9, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky disclose said display range determination part follows the user input process rule selected by said user input process rule change part, and determines the display range of the information based on the user input (Makipaa, col. 3, lines 14-28 and col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36: displaying information on a user terminal screen by identifying user terminal type and screen size then extracting layout rules and typographical settings from a database based on the

user terminal type, calculating the space required to display the information on the user terminal screen, and the information is then displayed according to the layout rules and typographical settings, on the user terminal screen. Makipaa also discloses the layout rules for terminal type and user profile are retrieved from the user and terminal profile (col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36)).

However, Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky do not explicitly disclose a user input process rule change part containing a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input, said user input process rule change part operable to select one of a plurality of user input process rules applicable to said user input according to the instruction from said rule change instruction part. Thurlow discloses a method that allows users to build rules by choosing predefined conditions and actions, which are presented via a simple graphical user interface (col. 1, lines 55-62). Thurlow also discloses providing a user interface that guides user through the process of creating and editing rules by displaying on the display device a plurality of conditions so the user can selection one of the conditions, in response to the selected condition, representing the selected condition to the displayed state of the rule (col. 9, lines 19-65 and col. 17, line 44 – col. 18, line 54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Thurlow and Alam, Makipaa and Kanevsky to include a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input in order to process messages or documents in the most efficient and timely manner.

14. As to claim 10, Alam, Makipaa, Kanevsky and Thurlow disclose wherein said rule change instruction means instructs, at the same time, said layout rule change means for the change of the layout rules, and said user input process rule change means for the change of the user input process rules (Alam, col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted; Thurlow discloses a method that allows users to build rules by choosing predefined conditions and actions, which are presented via a simple graphical user interface (col. 1, lines 55-62). Thurlow also discloses providing a user interface that guides user through the process of creating and editing rules by displaying on the display device a plurality of conditions so the user can selection one of the conditions, in response to the selected condition, representing the selected condition to the displayed state of the rule (col. 9, lines 19-65 and col. 17, line 44 – col. 18, line 54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Thurlow and Alam to include a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input in order to process messages or documents in the most efficient and timely manner).

15. Claims 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam et al. (Alam), US Patent No. 6,336,124, Makipaa et al. (Makipaa), US Patent No. 6,556,217, further in view of Thurlow et al. (Thurlow), US Patent No. 6,057,841.

16. As to claim 11, Alam discloses a display device for displaying, on a display screen, information specified in a document description language for a structured document, the information being displayed in a mode prescribed for the document description language, and performing a screen switching in response to a user input, said device comprising:

an analyzer for operable to analyze the information, and operable to divide said information into a plurality of component elements (Abstract: locating data in an input document, grouping data into one or more blocks (component elements));

a rule change instruction part operable to make an instruction for a change of layout rules to be applied when displaying the information (col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document);

user input part operable to receive the user input (col. 5, lines 35-45: user specifies one or more output formats);

a display range determination part operable to follow the user input process rule selected by said user input process rule change part, and operable to determine a display range of the information based on the user input (col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted);

However, Alam does not explicitly disclose a layout part operable to layout each of the component elements derived by said analyzer, and a display part operable to generate screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination part based on the component elements derived by said analyzer and a layout result of each of the component elements, and operable to display the screen data on the display screen. Makipaa discloses displaying information on a user terminal screen by identifying user terminal type and screen size then extracting layout rules and typographical settings from a database based on the user terminal type, calculating the space required to display the information on the user terminal screen, and the information is then displayed according to the layout rules and typographical settings, on the user terminal screen (col. 3, lines 14-28). Makipaa also discloses the layout rules for terminal type and user profile are retrieved from the user and terminal profile (col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36). Since Makipaa discloses displaying information on any type of user terminal having any size screen and having different types of mechanisms for input of information, which is similar to converting digital data representing an image of a document image stored in one format to other formats for manipulation and display of Alam, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Makipaa and Alam to include a layout part operable to layout each of the component elements derived by said analyzer, and a display part operable to generate screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination part based on the component elements derived by said analyzer and a layout result of each of the component elements, and operable to

display the screen data on the display screen. Makipaa's system can be able to operate and adapt to the differing input devices to allow for maximum utilization of the terminal the user has.

However, Alam and Makipaa do not explicitly disclose a user input process rule change part containing a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input, said user input process rule change part operable to select one of a plurality of user input process rules applicable to said user input according to the instruction from said rule change instruction part. Thurlow discloses a method that allows users to build rules by choosing predefined conditions and actions, which are presented via a simple graphical user interface (col. 1, lines 55-62). Thurlow also discloses providing a user interface that guides user through the process of creating and editing rules by displaying on the display device a plurality of conditions so the user can selection one of the conditions, in response to the selected condition, representing the selected condition to the displayed state of the rule (col. 9, lines 19-65 and col. 17, line 44 – col. 18, line 54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Thurlow and Alam and Makipaa to include a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input in order to process messages or documents in the most efficient and timely manner.

17. As to claim 12, Alam, Makipaa and Thurlow disclose wherein the information includes at least one or more of a text element, a table element, and an image element (Alam, col. 2, lines 12-27).

18. As to claim 13, Alam, Makipaa and Thurlow disclose wherein the document description language is a markup language or a hypertext description language (Alam, col. 2, lines 28-36).

19. As to claim 14, Alam, Makipaa and Thurlow disclose wherein said rule change instruction part receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the user input process rules (Makipaa, col. 3, lines 14-28 and col. 9, line 8 – col. 10, line 36: Makipaa discloses displaying information on any type of user terminal having any size screen and having different types of mechanisms for input of information, which is similar to converting digital data representing an image of a document image stored in one format to other formats for manipulation and display of Alam, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Makipaa and Alam to include rule change instruction part receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules. The motivation to combine Makipaa's system into Alam's is that Makipaa's system can be able to operate and adapt to the differing input devices to allow for maximum utilization of the terminal the user has).

20. As to claim 15, Alam, Makipaa and Thurlow disclose wherein said rule change instruction part refers to the display range determined by said to the display range display range determination part, and makes the change of the layout rules based on an attribute of each of the component elements included in the display range (Alam, col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted).

21. As to claim 16, Alam, Makipaa and Thurlow disclose wherein said rule change instruction the refers to the display range determined by said display range determination the, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules based on the layout result of each of the component elements included in the display range (Alam, col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45: the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted).

22. As to claim 17, Alam disclose in col. 17, line 1 – col. 18, line 36: certain rules may be set and applied to determine how to format the input document; col. 5, lines 35-45:

the one or more output formats may be specified by the user, all of one or more output formats supported and determined based upon the application or device to which the converted data output is outputted. However, Alam does not explicitly disclose wherein said rule change instruction means instructs, at the same time, said layout rule change means for the change of the layout rules, and said user input process rule change means for the change of the user input process rules. Thurlow discloses a method that allows users to build rules by choosing predefined conditions and actions, which are presented via a simple graphical user interface (col. 1, lines 55-62). Thurlow also discloses providing a user interface that guides user through the process of creating and editing rules by displaying on the display device a plurality of conditions so the user can selection one of the conditions, in response to the selected condition, representing the selected condition to the displayed state of the rule (col. 9, lines 19-65 and col. 17, line 44 – col. 18, line 54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Thurlow and Alam and Makipaa to include a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to said user input in order to process messages or documents in the most efficient and timely manner).

Response to Arguments

In the remarks, Applicant(s) argued in substance that

A) The prior art does not disclose a layout rule change part that is operable to select one of the layout rules responding to an instruction fro a rule change instruction part.

In response to argument A, Makipaa discloses displaying information on a user terminal screen by identifying user terminal type and screen size then extracting layout rules and typographical settings from a database based on the user terminal type, calculating the space required to display the information on the user terminal screen, and the information is then displayed according to the layout rules and typographical settings, on the user terminal screen (Makipaa, col. 3, lines 14-28).

B) The prior art fails to disclose a user input process rule change part containing a plurality of predetermined user input process rules applicable to user input, wherein the user input process rule change part is operable to select one of the plurality of user input process rules according o the instruction from said rule change instruction part.

In response to argument B, Thurlow discloses a method that allows users to build rules by choosing predefined conditions and actions, which are presented via a simple graphical user interface (col. 1, lines 55-62). Thurlow also discloses providing a user interface that guides user through the process of creating and editing rules by displaying on the display device a plurality of conditions so the user can selection one of the

conditions, in response to the selected condition, representing the selected condition to the displayed state of the rule (col. 9, lines 19-65 and col. 17, line 44 – col. 18, line 54).

23. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 (substantially directed to the amended subject matter, i.e., each layout rule defines a layout method for each type of the component elements of the information) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the rejection above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4092. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chau Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2176

William L. Bashore
WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
9/17/2005